

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 6

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Chronic  
Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month.



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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (“COPD”) is primarily associated with emphysema and chronic bronchitis;

Whereas an estimated 10,000,000 adults in the United States have been diagnosed by a physician with COPD;

Whereas an estimated 24,000,000 adults in the United States have symptoms of impaired lung function, indicating that COPD is underdiagnosed;

Whereas COPD is progressive and is not fully reversible;

Whereas as COPD progresses, the airways and alveoli in the lungs lose elasticity and the airway walls collapse, closing off smaller airways and narrowing larger ones;

Whereas symptoms of COPD include chronic coughing, shortness of breath, increased effort to breathe, increased mucus production, and frequent clearing of the throat;

Whereas risk factors for COPD include long-term smoking, a family history of COPD, exposure to air pollution or second-hand smoke, and a history of frequent childhood respiratory infections;

Whereas more than half of all adults who suffer from COPD report that their condition limits their ability to work, sleep, and participate in social and physical activities;

Whereas more than half of all adults who suffer from COPD feel they are not in control of their breathing, panic when they cannot catch their breath, and expect their condition to worsen;

Whereas nearly 119,000 adults died in the United States of COPD in 2000, making COPD the fourth leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas COPD accounted for 8,000,000 office visits to doctors, 1,500,000 emergency department visits, and 726,000 hospitalizations by adults in the United States in 2000;

Whereas COPD cost the economy of the United States an estimated \$32,100,000,000 in 2002;

Whereas too many people with COPD are not diagnosed or  
are not receiving adequate treatment; and

Whereas the establishment of a Chronic Obstructive Pul-  
monary Disease Awareness Month would raise public  
awareness about the prevalence of chronic obstructive  
pulmonary disease and the serious problems associated  
with the disease: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2   *concurring)*, That Congress supports the goals and ideals  
3 of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness  
4 Month.

Passed the House of Representatives July 16, 2003.

Attest:

*Clerk.*